

Message Text

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SUBJECT: DEPUTY MINISTER SEMENOV'S STATEMENT OF APRIL 8,
1975 (SALT TWO-601)

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY DEPUTY MINISTER
SEMENOV AT THE SALT TWO MEETING OF APRIL 8, 1975.

QUOTE

SEMENOV STATEMENT, APRIL 8, 1975

AS A RESULT OF THE SOVIET-AMERICAN NEGOTIATIONS AT THE
HIGHEST LEVEL IN VLADIVOSTOK THE SIDES REACHED AN UNDERSTAND-
ING, RECORDED IN THE AIDE-MEMOIRE OF DECEMBER 10, 1974, TO
THE EFFECT THAT THE NEW AGREEMENT FOR THE PERIOD UNTIL THE END
OF 1985 WILL INCLUDE A PROVISION ON NEGOTIATIONS ON FURTHER
LIMITATIONS AND POSSIBLE REDUCTIONS OF STRATEGIC ARMS.

AN UNDERSTANDING TO THAT EFFECT IS EMBODIED IN THE PRO-
VISIONS OF ARTICLE XVIII OF THE SOVIET DRAFT.

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THE ARTICLE BEGINS BY SAYING: "THE PARTIES DECLARE THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO ACT IN A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AIMED AT REDUCING THE RISK OF WAR AND LIMITING ARMAMENTS." INCORPORATION OF THIS PROVISION IN THE TEXT OF THE NEW AGREEMENT WOULD CONSOLIDATE THE DETERMINATION OF THE USSR AND THE U.S., EXPRESSED IN A NUMBER OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL DOCUMENTS SIGNED IN RECENT YEARS, TO FORGE AHEAD IN THE PIVOTAL DIRECTION OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS, THAT IS TO MAKE PROGRESS IN TAKING JOINT MEASURES TO ELIMINATE THE THREAT OF WAR AND HALT THE ARMS RACE. AND, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NEW AGREEMENT ON THE LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS, THIS IS WELL-FOUNDED ON REASON.

THIS PROVISION IS ALSO FULLY IN ACCORD WITH THE OBLIGATION ASSUMED BY THE SIDES IN THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE U.S. OF MAY 29, 1972, TO MAKE SPECIAL EFFORTS TO LIMIT STRATEGIC ARMAMENTS, CONCLUDING WHENEVER POSSIBLE CONCRETE AGREEMENTS AIMED AT ACHIEVING THIS PURPOSE.

THE PROPOSED FORMULATION ALSO ENSUES FROM THE DEEP BELIEF, EXPRESSED BY THE SIDES IN THE JOINT SOVIET-UNITED STATES COMMUNIQUE ON THE RESULTS OF THE VLADIVOSTOK MEETING, IN THE NECESSITY OF PROMOTING THE PROCESS OF CREATING GUARANTEES AGAINST THE OUTBREAK OF A NUCLEAR CONFLICT AND WAR IN GENERAL.

BY BEING INCLUDED IN THE OPERATIVE PART OF THE TEXT OF THE NEW AGREEMENT, SUCH A PROVISION WOULD THUS CONTRIBUTE TO FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE U.S. ON THE BASIS OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE, WOULD INCREASE THE POLITICAL AND PRACTICAL IMPORT OF THE DOCUMENT BEING WORKED OUT AS A NEW MAJOR STEP ALONG THE PATH TOWARD ENSURING CONDITIONS OF LASTING PEACE AND SECURITY OF NATIONS.

ARTICLE XVIII OF THE SOVIET DRAFT FURTHER CONTAINS THE PROVISION THAT NO LATER THAN 1980-1981 THE SIDES WILL BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS ON THE QUESTION OF FURTHER LIMITATIONS AND POSSIBLE REDUCTIONS OF STRATEGIC ARMS.

IT FOLLOWS FROM THE CONTENT OF THE ARTICLE OF THE SOVIET
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DRAFT UNDER DISCUSSION THAT THIS FORMULATION, GIVING CONCRETE EXPRESSION TO THE FIRST PROVISION OF THAT ARTICLE, CLEARLY SPECIFIES WHEN THE FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED, AS WELL AS THEIR SUBJECT MATTER. OF COURSE, THE WORDS "NO LATER THAN" ALSO MEAN THAT A BEGINNING OF THE NEGOTIATIONS EARLIER THAN THE TIME SPECIFIED IS NOT PRECLUDED.

ACCORDING TO THE UNDERSTANDING REFLECTED IN THE JOINT

SOVIET-UNITED STATES COMMUNIQUE OF NOVEMBER 24, 1974, THE PROSPECTS ARE FAVORABLE THAT THE WORKING OUT OF THE NEW AGREEMENT WILL BE COMPLETED DURING THE CURRENT YEAR, 1975, WHICH WAS ALSO SAID IN OFFICIAL STATEMENTS BY THE LEADERS OF BOTH STATES. TAKING THIS INTO ACCOUNT, THE OBLIGATION WE ARE DISCUSSING WOULD, WITHOUT OF COURSE PREJUDGING THE RESULTS OF THE FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS, ATTEST TO THE UNCEASING AND PURPOSEFUL NATURE OF THE EFFORTS OF BOTH SIDES IN THAT DIRECTION.

ALL THIS, TOGETHER WITH THE PROVISION OF THE PREAMBLE TO THE SOVIET DRAFT CONCERNING THE INTENTION OF THE SIDES TO TAKE FURTHER MEASURES TO LIMIT AND REDUCE STRATEGIC ARMS, IS ALSO FULLY IN ACCORD WITH THE DECISIONS REACHED IN THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL AND RECORDED IN THE AIDE-MEMOIRE OF DECEMBER 10, 1974, PARAGRAPH 6 OF WHICH READS: "A NEW AGREEMENT WILL ALSO INCLUDE A PROVISION TO THE EFFECT THAT NO LATER THAN 1980-1981 NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD START ON FURTHER LIMITATIONS AND POSSIBLE REDUCTIONS OF STRATEGIC ARMS."

IT FOLLOWS FROM A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE SOVIET AND U.S. DRAFTS OF THE NEW AGREEMENT THAT THE SIDES AGREE IN PRINCIPLE CONCERNING THE ADVISABILITY OF INCORPORATING IN THE JOINT DRAFT AGREEMENT AN ARTICLE DEALING WITH THE QUESTION WE ADDRESSED TODAY.

WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE XVIII OF THE SOVIET DRAFT, WHICH CONTAIN CLEAR OBLIGATIONS FOR THE SIDES IN THE AREA DEALT WITH IN THAT ARTICLE AND ARE FULLY IN ACCORD WITH THE EXISTING UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE U.S., MUST BE INCORPORATED IN THE JOINT DRAFT OF THE NEW AGREEMENT WE ARE PREPARING.

UNQUOTE JOHNSON

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